Gale / Gayle

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FAMILY WEBSITE PUBLISHED

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A website highlighting the Gale/Gayle families of England, the West Indies and America has just been published by a descendant of one of the original immigrants. Gayle N. Mandell, of Norfolk, Virginia, spent over 25 years compiling information on the surname and has identified family groups who migrated from England and left descendants in each one of the original 13 colonies by the time of the American Civil War.

Working initially with records left to her by her grandmother, Mrs. Mandell began to construct a genealogy of only her immediate family. The project took on larger focus when she became intrigued with the surname in general. She visited libraries and courthouses, interviewed descendants, traveled to home sites, and eventually compiled an exhaustive amount of information to aid other researchers.

"My grandmother told me once that there were as many Gayles as there were Smiths, especially in early Virginia. And I soon found that to be true. Their occupations ranged from indentured servants and farmers to highly placed public officials, with some merchant mariners thrown in to spice up the mix. One who settled in Maryland was the step-grandfather of President George Washington."

The stated purpose of the site, which focuses on England, the West Indies and America, is to provide as much information as possible for researchers of the surname. This has been accomplished through the use of family charts, personal profiles, photographs of individuals, homes, and documents. In fact, the site provides, in one place, more in depth information on the surname than probably any other.

For more information, contact Gayle N. Mandell at gaylesstudio@gmail.com.

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